

MAY 22 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) A method comprising:

providing a vehicle defining a longitudinal direction substantially parallel to an intended direction of travel thereof, and comprising a cargo hold, containing a cargo having a weight, and a plurality of wheels, providing during travel the exclusive vertical support for supporting the cargo hold;

positioning the vehicle on a bearing surface;

positioning a support to directly and continuously contact the cargo hold and remove from the plurality of wheels at least a portion of the weight of the cargo; and

unloading the cargo by rotating the bearing surface about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the cargo hold comprises a frame and a door having an engaged position and an a disengaged position with respect to the frame, the weight of the cargo exceeding the bearing capacity of the cargo hold when the door is the unengaged disengaged position.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the frame comprises an upper frame member and a lower frame member, the door having an upper edge hingedly attached to the upper frame member and a lower edge selectively engaging the lower frame member to stiffen the cargo hold.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein positioning a support further comprises exerting an upward force on the lower frame member.

35. (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35 34, wherein the vehicle has a proximal end and a distal end spaced apart in the longitudinal direction and further comprises:

a first lifting mechanism positioned proximate the proximal end to engage the door and selectively exert an upward force thereon; and

a second lifting mechanism positioned proximate the distal end to engage the door and selectively exert an upward force thereon.

37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37 36, further comprising anchoring the vehicle to the bearing surface.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein rotating the bearing surface further comprises rotating the bearing surface relative to a base supporting the bearing surface.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising anchoring the vehicle to the bearing surface.

41. (currently amended) A method comprising:

providing a vehicle comprising a cargo hold, containing a cargo, and a plurality of wheels, ~~providing during travel the exclusive vertical support for supporting the cargo hold;~~ positioning the vehicle on a bearing surface, positioning a support to directly and continuously contact the cargo hold and resist deflection of the cargo hold toward the bearing surface; and unloading the cargo by rotating the bearing surface.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising anchoring the vehicle to the bearing surface.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the vehicle defines a longitudinal direction substantially parallel to an intended direction of travel thereof.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the cargo hold comprises a floor, a front wall, a back wall, a first side wall, and a second side wall.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the first side wall comprises a door pivoting with respect to the vehicle about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the door extends substantially the length of the first side wall.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein unloading the cargo comprises opening the door and rotating the bearing surface about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein unloading further comprises applying a vibration to the cargo hold through the support.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 41, wherein:
the vehicle defines a longitudinal direction substantially parallel to an intended direction of travel thereof; and
unloading comprises rotating the bearing surface about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.

50. (currently amended) A method comprising:

providing a vehicle defining a longitudinal direction ~~substantially parallel to an intended direction of travel thereof, the vehicle and~~ comprising a cargo hold, containing a cargo having a weight, and a plurality of wheels, ~~providing during travel the exclusive vertical supporting for supporting the cargo hold;~~

positioning the vehicle on a bearing surface;

anchoring the vehicle to the bearing surface.

positioning a support to directly and continuously contact the cargo hold and remove from the plurality of wheels at least a portion of the weight of the cargo; and

unloading the cargo by rotating the bearing surface about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein unloading further comprises applying through the support a vibration to the cargo hold.